



Environmental Bulletin

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from the Savannah River Site

Proposed Plan Available for Comment on the 211-FB Pu-239 Release Operable Unit

The United States Department of Energy (DOE), United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) have reviewed the risks associated with the 211-FB Plutonium (Pu) 239 Release Operable Unit (OU) at the Savannah River Site and are recommending the preferred alternative.

The No Action alternative is the preferred alternative for the 211-FB Pu-239 Release OU. There is no waste to treat, no institutional or engineering controls are required, and there are no applicable or relevant and appropriate requirements. Because there are no problems warranting action at the 211-FB Pu-239 Release OU, no action will be taken. The 211-FB Pu-239 Release OU poses no risk to human health or the environment and warrants unrestricted land use; it is located within F Area, which is designated as a heavy industrial use zone. For this reason, the land use will remain industrial as described in the most current USDOE future land use report. However, no institutional controls will be required for the 211-FB Pu-239 Release OU to ensure industrial future use.

No capital and/or operation and maintenance costs will be involved for this action.

The 211-FB Pu-239 Release OU is located within the Fourmile Branch Watershed and integrator operable unit (IOU) on the southern boundary of F Area between the F-Area Retention Basin and the F-Area Tank Farm. The OU is the burial area for sludge that resulted from a release to the sanitary sewer in Building 221-F. Historic records indicate that a release occurred on December 23, 1954, from Building 221-F (Canyon Building) as part of the radioisotope separations process. Using a bucket, an operator drained a tank that contained liquid Pu-239. An unknown number of buckets of liquid containing Pu-239 were dumped into the floor drain and toilet bowl in the men's room during this shift. The toilet bowl and surrounding floor as well as the primary settling tank (Building 607-1F) in the 200-F waste disposal plant were contaminated with plutonium. The sludge in the primary settling tank of the sewage treatment plant was removed and buried in a trench at the present location of the 211-FB Pu-239 Release OU. Contaminated buildings and structures are not included in this OU but will be addressed in the facility decontamination and decommissioning (D&D) program; all of the D&D facilities, as well as subsurface structures and soils, will be addressed as part of the F-Area completion project. The preferred alternative can change in response to public comments or new information.

The public comment period is scheduled for November 22, 2005 to January 5, 2005. Comments on the Proposed Plan are requested by January 5, 2005. Upon completion of the public comment period, a Responsiveness Summary will be prepared which addresses public comments. The Responsiveness Summary will be made available with the Record of Decision, and will be sent to each person who submits comments.

Copies of the Proposed Plan are available in the administrative record, which also contains the Remedial Investigation report for this unit. The administrative record is available in the information repositories listed below:

- DOE Public Reading Room at the Gregg-Graniteville Library at the University of South Carolina-Aiken campus in Aiken, SC; and
- Thomas Cooper Library Government Documents Department at the University of South Carolina in Columbia, SC.

Hard copies of the Proposed Plan are available at the following:

- Reese Library at Augusta State University in Augusta, GA; and
- Asa H. Gordon Library at Savannah State University in Savannah, GA.

Comments on the Proposed Plan and requests for public meetings may be sent to:

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**For more information on this or other
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